

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/615,091

Examiner

Tuan C To

Applicant(s)

STROMME, OYVIND

Art Unit

3663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/07/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 10/03/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Thomas G. Black
THOMAS G. BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 3600

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An informal examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In the specification, before paragraph [0023], --Detailed Description of the Invention--has been inserted.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

This communication is an Examiner's reasons for allowance in response to application filed on 07/07/2003, assigned serial 10/615,091 and titled "Automatic Traffic Sign Recognition."

The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1 is the reference of Ma et al. (U.S. '2683), which discloses several limitations of claim 1. For example, the apparatus (100) may be a camera for capturing images of traffic signs. The system disclosed by Ma et al. also teaches a memory with a database of signs and objects and a GPS navigation database including locations of the signs and objects. "The system correlates the images with the GPS navigation database to identify the signs and objects as an on-screen display or speech output. In figure 2 of Ma et al. represents that the apparatus (102) include a video processor that warps the stored images to

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match the point of view of the images (100) and then correlates the image of the sign from the imager with the images in the database.

The reference '998A1 to Matsukawa et al. discloses an image unit (figure 1, 102), in which a database contains pre-registered shape of traffic sign (Matsukawa et al., paragraph 0084; paragraph 019); recognition unit which detects and identifies successive images, traffic signs by searching image areas which have shape in the database (Matsukawa et al., paragraph 0093).

However, the examiner has found neither Ma et al. nor Matsukawa et al. discloses that a system for reminding a driver of the presence of at least one particular traffic sign comprising a selection between two signs identified in a same picture being performed by comparing the variation of the rectangular coordinates of a reference point of the signs in two successive pictures for evaluating the distance between the vehicle and the signs. None of the prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests the limitations as claimed in claim 1. Therefore, claims 1-5 are set in a condition for allowance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Tuan To, whose telephone number is (703) 308-6273. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black, can be reached on (703) 305-8233.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

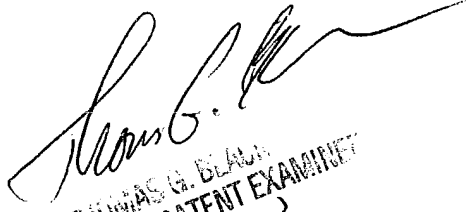
(703) 305-7687, (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park V, 2451 Crystal
Drive, Arlington, VA, Seventh Floor (Receptionist).

/tc

April 1, 2004


THOMAS G. BEACH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 3602